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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 15, 2020

From the Transitional Conference Minister

Grace to you and peace! I have a 91-year-old Aunt who lives in assisted living housing in Northern California. Unfortunately, I have not seen her for several years. In addition, she stopped using her computer and she does not answer her phone. So, I send her a card or flowers occasionally to let her know I am thinking of her.

But the pandemic changed that! Since the facility where she lives has been closed to visitors, they have been willing to assist in setting up Zoom conversations. Therefore, I have been visiting with my Aunt every two weeks via Zoom! But there is more. Her late husband was from a large family most of whom I had never met. As a result, the Zoom conversation has had up to 12 people on it - connecting folks from California, Oregon, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee - many of whom had been strangers. We are now learning about each other and learning about our connections. My Aunt shares stories of her life but also loves to look at the faces. She was surprised to see that we had gotten older than she remembers! None of this would have happened if the pandemic would not have changed things!



Our Conference Annual Meeting is almost here. It will be different from other years because it is virtual. However, we will be able to connect delegates and visitors in ways we have not been able to do before. Although we may not see everyone's face, we will be able to feel the spirit that connects us across our large Conference geography and even connect with two of our national staff. The connections make a difference! We have

so much that we can learn from each other, which can strengthen our identity as part of the Southeast Conference and the United Church of Christ. Through the connections, we can offer encouragement and support, affirming our witness as followers of Jesus. In a world that needs to hear the voices and see a vision of a just world for all, we can make a real difference! We are stronger together! Please join us for our Annual Meeting on September 26 – for worship, business, and celebration!

Blessings, Char

From the Generosity Coordinator

by Min. Carrole Moss, Generosity Coordinator

My prayer is that we are all doing well and working to make our world and the life of others BETTER as we continue to live out this state of PANDEMIC. We have all been checked, challenged, and changed in this new environment and we have SURVIVED. PRAISE GOD!!! We have learned to do ministry in different ways and have adapted to change. We have been reminded that: WE ARE THE CHURCH!!! We are not the physical building. We are walking, talking living testaments that GOD is real and still rules in our lives.



During this season of PANDEMIC, COVID-19 we are so grateful for all the ways that you continue to support this conference. THANK YOU!!!

Our TRANSFORMING CHURCHES TRANSFORMING LIVES, Cycle two was open on September 8, 2020. All of the needed information is on our website. We ask that you read ALL of the guidelines carefully, follow the instructions, and apply. Should you have questions or concerns, I invite you to reach out to me directly...I'm here to help.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 26, 2020. Please plan to attend.

We are all in this TOGETHER...

Love, blessings and peace, as we continue on this journey, TOGETHER,

News from the Conference Office



Southeast Conference Annual Meeting – September 26
10 am Eastern / 9 am Central to 12 pm Eastern / 11 am Central

Annual Meeting Registration Deadline is this Saturday, September 19!

REGISTER ONLINE

ANNUAL MEETING WEBSITE

Pre-Annual Meeting Zoom Meetings Being Held on September 21 and 24

Do you have questions about the business at Annual Meeting (located on the Annual Meeting [website under Agenda Items](#))? Questions about beginning the search for a new Conference Minister? Not sure how to use the Zoom webinar? There are two Pre-Annual Meeting Zoom meetings set up for anyone to come and ask questions (you do not need to be a delegate). Meetings will be held on September 21 and 24 at 7:00 pm Eastern / 6:00 pm Central. [Register for the Sept 21 session](#). [Register for the Sept 24 session](#). These opportunities serve as our usual in-person hearings and workshops on the business at Annual Meeting.

Necrology for Annual Meeting

It is our Conference custom to invite churches to share the list of those within their congregation who have died since the last Annual Meeting. Please provide one delegate (lay or clergy) with the list of names from your church. At the appropriate time on the Agenda, the assigned delegate will share the names.



Ecclesiastical Council for Haley Lerner

The Southeast Conference's Commission on Ministry invites you to the Ecclesiastical Council of Haley Lerner at 5:30 pm Eastern Time on September 29, 2020. Ecclesiastical Councils (ECs) are the last step in the process for both Members in Discernment and for Ministers transferring their credentials to the United Church of Christ from another denomination called the Privilege of Call. As part of the EC, you, members of the Southeast Conference, will have the opportunity to listen to the work of the Spirit, and vote to Ordain Haley Lerner.

Haley serves as a Campus Minister at the Presbyterian Student Center at the University of Georgia. Haley grew up in the Philadelphia area but has called Georgia home for the past four years. She graduated from Candler School of Theology at Emory University with her Master of Divinity in 2019. She is a fervent justice-seeker and is particularly passionate about the

pursuit of racial justice, immigrant and refugee advocacy, and LGBTQ+ inclusion in the Church. Haley is a member of Kirkwood United Church of Christ and a Licensed Minister in the UCC. This EC will be online and you can [register online](#).

Clergy Zoom Connections for September

- **An Hour of Conversations and Prayer**
Tuesday, September (22, 29) - 11:00 a.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Central)
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/479440102>
 - **Especially for Specialized Ministers**
Tuesday, September 22 - 9:30 a.m. Eastern (8:30 a.m. Central)
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/354744689>
 - **Live Harp Meditations for Ministers - NEW TIME!**
Thursday, September 24 - 12:00 p.m. Eastern (11:00 Central)
20 minutes of meditation with Celtic harp. Silent prayer and reflection following if desired, facilitated by Rev. Jean Norton. (For questions or to sign up for individual Therapeutic Harp Sessions, contact Jean at HeartSongJean@gmail.com.)
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96976838422>
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Re-Opening of Churches – Conversation for all Church Leaders

Next Conversation – Monday, October 5, 7 pm Eastern/6 pm Central

As things keep changing regarding COVID-19 and reopening churches, we want to continue the conversation, developing safe and best practices. There is also the question about what churches might maintain into the future. We invite all Moderators, Church Leaders, and Clergy to be part of the conversation. [Register online here](#).



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2020. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

Week of September 20

- Church of the Savior; Knoxville, Tennessee
- Gregg Carlson
- Douglas Hunt
- Kate Stulce
- Susan Webeler
- Ann Michele Rogers-Brigham

Week of September 27

- Liberty Congregational Christian UCC; Brantley, Alabama
- Courtney Jones
- Jeremy Rutledge
- Leslie Carmack
- Bob Hurst
- Cindy Barto

Churches in Transition

Central Congregational, Atlanta, GA; First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Open Table, Mobile AL; Rush Memorial, Atlanta GA; United Church of Cookeville, Cookeville TN; Brookemeade Congregational, Nashville TN

News from the Wider Church



Neighbors in Need Offering for 2020

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Most UCC congregations will receive the NIN offering on **October 4, 2020** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance. However, some local churches select another date.

Partners In Vision Event Available Online

The UCC Church Building & Loan Fund has transitioned their "Partners in Vision" event to an online platform that will be offered over three consecutive Thursdays: 9/17, 9/24, and 10/1, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm EDT. Each day will be 90 minutes long, including a Keynote address and Workshops to attend. The fee is \$25.00 to attend all three days and participants will have access to review all the recordings 6 months after the event! [Register online](#).

News from our Local Congregations



Connie Moran, member of Sankofa UCC, Atlanta, GA and Rev. Heather Fosburgh, ACM for the Conference, attended the unveiling of the "Loved Ones, Not Numbers" Memorial Wall in Atlanta honoring Georgia's victims of COVID-19. Heather was one of the speakers at the event.



Conference Calendar

[Commission on Ministry Meeting](#)

September 17 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT

[Healthy Boundaries 201](#)

September 19 @ 8:45 am - 12:15 pm EDT

[Pre-Annual Meeting Conversation](#)

September 21 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

September 22 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Pre-Annual Meeting Conversation](#)

September 24 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EDT

[SEC UCC Annual Meeting \(Virtual\)](#)

September 26 @ 10:30 am - 12:30 pm EDT

View the **full calendar** of events online: <https://www.secucc.org/events/>

Contact Us

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